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**Book review: A Companion to the Philosophy of Time, written by Heather
Dyke and Adrian Bardon**

Tan, Daniela

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Heather Dyke and Adrian Badron (Eds)

A Companion to the Philosophy of Time. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

What is real, and what is interpretation or illusion? Already the earliest scholars of Antiquity have understood time and the perception of time as a key concept to approach these questions.

The volume *A Companion to the Philosophy of Time* offers a wide range of approaches to the subject of time and temporality, and gives insight in an immense bandwidth of scholarly investigation into the philosophy of time.

Both editors are well-acquainted with time studies and have dedicated much of their research to the study of time. Heather Dyke is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Otago in New Zealand and has published various articles on the philosophy of time, such as *Time and Ethics: Essays at the Intersection* (2003) and *From Truth to Reality: New Essays in Logic and Metaphysics* (2009). Adrian Bardon is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem and has edited the following volumes engaging with time studies: *The Future of the Philosophy of Time* (2012) and *A Brief History of the Philosophy of Time* (2013).

The three main sections of the volume cover history of the philosophy of time (part I), time as a feature of the physical world (part II) and time as a feature of human experience (part III). This division in philosophy, nature science and time perceived and experienced by human beings serves as a quick orientation and gives a good overview to the 32 in total articles on 562 pages. Still, it is permeable and allows and facilitates a stimulating lecture across the whole interdisciplinarity of the volume.

It therefore can be recommended to advanced timeologists as well as to those searching for an introduction into the broad field of the study of time. And – maybe this does not belong in an academic book review, but the careful compilation of the volumes invites to quarry along the contributions and find oneself surprised by delightful discoveries.

The index in the back of the volume serves as a helpful add-on to the companion.

The eloquence and the general tone of the articles is outstanding. I have appreciated, for example, Jeremy Butterfield's research about time in quantum physics, although I must admit it has been a challenging read for a humanist. It is a characteristic of such a multidisciplinary piece of work, that someone dedicated to literary studies may find herself a little bit lost in the foreign waters of a complete different field of study accompanied by a variety of formulas. But as a matter of fact, the authors seem to be aware of these circumstances and take it into consideration by providing well-structured and accessibly written articles. In Butterfield's article, I could learn about the branching of time in three types of time: 1) external time, being the time used to perform work by the operator outside the machine cycle, resulting in a loss of potential machine operating time¹, 2) intrinsic times, being „a dynamical variable of the studied system, that functions to measure the time“ (234) and observable time and time operators in quantum physics.

On the other hand, the articles in part I of the volume offer an amazing introduction into the history of the philosophy of time, although it must be remarked that it is mainly focussed on European and Western engagement with the idea of time, including an insight in the view on temporality in the medieval Arabic-speaking world by Jon McGinnis, but apart from that that Oriental thoughts and research of time of old and new times are left aside, just to mention for example the Japanese Society for Time Studies, based at Yamaguchi University in Fukuoka. The overview on the history of the philosophy of time starts from the oldest philosophical argumentation of pre-Socratic

¹ McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific & Technical Terms, 6E, Copyright © 2003 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

philosopher Parmenides and Heraclitus about their different views of time and can be read as an encyclopedic introduction into the history of the study of time starting from antiquity, covering medieval ages and leading into the great philosophers of the twentieth century.

To sum up: This collection of articles on the philosophy of time is a must-have for those engaging in the study of time. It will delight those keen to deepen their knowledge as well as the ones curious about discovering the large range of possibilities of this fascinating field.

Daniela Tan, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, Dept. of Japanology, Zurich University